2-4-93

Wilson's budget: What is your opinion? See Page 2

Los Angeles Valley College

Valley Star

Van Nuys, California

Volume 45, Issue 16

February 4, 1993

Subway may come

She moves in mysterious ways . . .

REESE O'CROTTY / Valley Star

Monday Feb. 1, in the quad, the Sona Sane Dance Ensemble performed traditional West African song and dance to kick off Black History Month. From left to right: Assane Seck, Trevor, Yosheh and Malang Bayo. The troop hopes to return to LAVC soon.

By J.D. WOLVERTON
Staff Writer

After many years of debate and dickering, Los Angeles is finally seeing the initial start-up of its new Metro Red Line, the city's first heavy rail subway.

Segment 1 of the line— running from Union Station in downtown L.A. to the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Alvarado Street— opened last week to much media attention and an enthusiastic reception from the citizenry, who were enticed on the trial run by the offer of a free ride on the opening day's festivities.

But for most Valley residents the opportunity to make use of the Red Line is still several years off in the future. Segment 3 of the system, running from Hollywood and Vine to Lankershim and Chandler in North Hollywood— some 6.3 miles— will not be completed until the year 2001.

The proposed extension of the line to the intersection of Burbank Boulevard and Fulton Avenue, just south of Los Angeles Valley College, is naturally of most interest to LAVC staff and students.

Such a conveniently located metro stop would immediately ease many of the college's traffic and parking problems. At least that is the hope.

David L. Mieger, Rail Development Project Manager in the San

(See SUBWAY, Page3)

LAVC disaster plan

Are we quake proof?

By AMANDA L. DUCHOW
Staff Writer

Is Los Angeles Valley College prepared for a major earthquake?

What role will faculty, administration, and college personnel play in emergency procedures?

What about hazardous materials areas, such as the chemistry building, that contain chemicals that could create a possible spill or fume cloud that could be potentially deadly? What about the bunson burners?

Are Valley College's buildings constructed in an earthquake safe manner? Are students as well as staff informed of proper evacuation procedures in order to avoid unsafe areas on campus?

How is the Valley campus set up to assist the surrounding community, with such things as food, medical care and shelter? Although there is a fire station directly across Burbank Blvd., what if any is Valley's arrangement with them? Will the fire department be able to be of any assistance to the campus?

What is the role of campus police in the event of a major earthquake? Are there adequate supplies on campus should an earthquake strike during peak school hours?

These are just some of the questions that need to be answered in order to prepare for the major earthquake that has been predicted by top earthquake seismologists.

A new Disaster Readiness Committee is being convened by Mary Ann Breckell, vice president of adminstration. The committee plans to answer these questions and more, concerning the preparedness of the Valley campus in the event of a disaster.

"Written procedures have been published and posted in classrooms and offices. What this committee will do is develop procedures for safe practice in order that every faculty member, classified staff person and administrator will know where to be and what role to play in order to help students and themselves in an actual emergency," Breckell stated.

Although the College Police have put together a disaster plan, Police Captain Karl Traber is fully aware of the adjustments that the committee needs to make to the current plan.

"The college does have a disaster plan at this time. The committee will be placing specific responsibilities to certain individuals on campus," said Traber.

With different fault lines running thoughout the Los Angeles area, it is more than apparent that Valley College lies on a different type of ground than other colleges. Breckell is aware of this fact and says that the committee will, "Create a plan that is unique to Valley."

Breckell also plans on wide spread participation from different areas of faculty and college staff. "Richard Raskoff is completing a course offered by the Los Angeles Fire Department on earthquake preparedness (Emergency Earthquake Preparedness Team Response). He plans to share that information with the committee," said Breckell.

As for service to the surrounding community, both Breckell and Traber hope to be of service.

Traber said "Yes, we would make our services available as long as it dosen't interfere with the education process"

Breckell admitted that if the committee found that areas in the school were in need of repair, then the areas would be repaired. Although at this time earthquake preparedness repairs are not in the budget. She stated, "It's hard to keep track of the cost."

The Disaster Readiness Committee did not have an official first meeting date at this time. However, Breckell hopes to start the committee very soon and is looking forward to student participation as well as faculty and staff. It is open to all students and they are encouraged to attend.

Campus radio station plays the hits . . .

By ANDREW SAMUELSON
Staff Writer

MARTI HARLOW / Valley Star

Lori Kingsley, KVCM disk-jockey, is heard at LAVC on Monday through Friday.

KVCM's diverse disc-jockeys entertain Los Angeles Valley College Monday through Friday with music, news and humor on the radio airways.

The radio station is LAVC's own and can be heard by just listening on a walk to class. The blue radios located through out the campus broadcast the shows to the students and faculty. The music heard on the walk to class is probably coming from one of these receivers, not from someone's generic headset.

The signal can not be picked up anywhere in Los Angeles, Orange County or in the San Fernando Valley. The signal can not even be reached in the parking lots of LAVC. The only receivers are the blue radios.

The station broadcasts between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday. The format features campus and world news, sports, and music that varies from alternative rock to country and western.

Tom Linder and Bill Pesso, two self-proclaimed class clowns, do the morning show and provide the humor for the station. Their show is a parody of the Mark and Brian morning show who they say are their idols.

"We may play two or three songs an hour with news every half-hour," Linder said. "The rest of the time we mostly ad-lib. Bill and I have a lot of fun doing the show."

Bette Baby and Mark (the Shark) Brower do shows later in the afternoon. Baby plays alternative rock, while Brower claims to play the "hardest rock west of the Mississippi."

Brower, like many others, has also developed a voice impersonation of Bill Clinton that he may soon try on the air.

The motivation for all of them is eventually to get a job in the radio market that they hope will pay the real big money.

Although there is not yet a formal call-in show, the disc-jockeys encourage students to call at any time and bash them.

Jason Beaton, the station's general manager, said that not many students realize that LAVC has a radio station.

"One of our goals this year is to get participation from the faculty and staff," Beaton said. "We also want to get as many listeners as possible."

Beaton said another goal is to get funding through advertisements that would allow KVCM to purchase new equipment.

With no sales staff, KVCM operates on a slim budget that is funded solely by the Associated Students Union. The lack of additional revenue has forced the station to use equipment that is out-dated.

"A promotion that worked last semester was a live remote broadcast in front of Monarch Hall," Beaton said. "Students became aware that they actually had a radio station on campus and got to meet many of the radio personalities."

Later this semester, the station will do another live remote broadcast to promote themselves to the student body.

Students get awards

By LUCY THOMAS
Staff Writer

The scholarships for the Krupnick General Knowledge Awards were presented for the first time to three LAVC sophomores, at the Los Angeles Valley College Patrons Association meeting on Friday Jan. 29, by Harry Krupnick

This is a scholarship awards program funded by Belle and Harry Krupnick, via the Krupnick Foundation. The funds are donated by the Foundation to the Patrons Association of LAVC; the organization that administers the program and its monies.

The program was presented to the college by the Krupnick Foundation and was coordinated by Professor Albert John Zucker of the LAVC English department.

All students enrolled at LAVC and who have not received a Bachelor's degree or higher may participate in the program.

During the first four weeks of each semester, students who want to participate in the Krupnick General Knowledge Awards Program must file a "Notice of Intention to Participate."

They may then either purchase a copy of E.D. Hirsch's book on Cultural Literacy, which is where the exam questions come from, or may use one of the eight copies that are on two hour reserve at LAVC library. The exam is given twice a year during the fall and spring semesters.

This years first place scholarship of $500 and a certificate was presented to Warren Carlson, a sophomore student who recently retired from a long business career and returned to college.

Carlson plans to use his funds to purchase some computer equipment. Carlson said, "I would like to obtain a Bachelors degree someday. I have several majors in mind but as yet I have not selected one."

Second place, a $250 scholarship and a certificate was received by Ung J. Lee, a sophomore student who has just left LAVC to transfer to a four year college as a junior.

Third place, a $125 scholarship and a certificate was presented to John Reed, a sophomore who is completing his lower division requirements at LAVC. Reed was accompanied by his parent, as he proudly received his award from Krupnick.

Carlson commented, "Every student should try to take the exam; if for no other reason but to read Hirsch's book. It contains a world of knowledge."

Tickets are back

By SARY FORNARIS
Staff Writer

The grace period on parking permit enforcement that Los Angeles Valley College police observe during the first two weeks of each semester expired Monday, Feb. 1. The officers are back to business.

According to Captain Karl Traber, of the LAVC campus police, failure to properly display the parking permit and parking in the aisles at the parking lots, are the two most common reasons for parking citations.

"Most students do purchase the permit, the problem is that they fail to follow the instructions to display it," said Traber. "The permit must be affixed to the back of the inside rearview mirror of the car. So that the officer can see it right away," he said.

"Not in your purse, nor your bag," said Traber. "Once a ticket is issued, it cannot be canceled; unless it is reviewed by the Court."

Some students object to sticking the decal anywhere on their cars. For those Traber suggests that they buy one of the $.99 hangers available at the book store. But the decal must be properly displayed.

Parking tickets are $25. The fee for illegally parking in handicap space has been increased from $125 to $330.

Traber said that the number of parking violations is very similar during both morning and evening sessions. But more citations might be given during the evening because of more security patrolling.

"Unfortunately, we do not have any visitors parking. Only the metered spaces can be used as such and that is for only 30 minutes," said Traber. "I know that some students do not have the money to buy the permit, but proper parking enforcement is part of our duty as campus police."

Higher fees bring higher hopes

Dear Editor,
Higher fees bring high hopes to whom? Thirty years ago State policy makers established the California Master Plan for Higher Education. Built upon the principles of open access, high quality and affordability it became the envy of the nation.

Low fees have asured educational access to California's economically disadvantaged communities. As fees have increased more and more, low and middle income students have been unable to afford an education.

For example, in 1985, when fees were first imposed, 18 percent of all students were weeded out of the system. A disproportionate amount of these students came from our minority communities.

In the Los Angeles Community College District alone, 20 percent of African-American male students dropped out and never returned to school.

Early enrollment figures indicate that at least 60,000 community college students were displaced by the $10 per unit (no cap) fee. Simply examining total enrollment decreases is inadequate in determining the impact of fee increases.

With higher fees in the UC and CSU systems, tens of thousands of redirected students are displacing the lower income community college students.

Redirected university students take up the empty seats vacated by those displaced students who are either forced to look elsewhere for an education or must return to full time employment.

It is also unreasonable to assume that raising the fees will get rid of less serious students. The California Community College System, as defined in the Master Plan is meant to be open to all students.

Alternatives to cutting the Education budget have been found however, they seem to have fallen upon deaf ears in the Governor's mansion. I think that what he and other opponents to public education do not realize is that by spending the money now on educating California's population, they secure the financial future of the state.

An educated workforce is the only way California can compete in the emerging global economy.

It is easy to say that the fees are very reasonable when you compare them to those of other institutions. However, to those low income students, the education promised to them by the California Master Plan is slipping further and further from their grasp.

The Executive Council of The Associated Student Union

Education is a right, not a privilege

Dear Editor:
As coordinator for Los Angeles County "Bite 'Em Back" Campaign, to recall Governor Pete Wilson and as a full-time student at Los Angeles Valley College, I am appalled at what I have witnessed in the last seven months.

With Governor Wilson's slash-and-burn budget of 1992, nearly all Californians' have been affected: higher education students, teachers, elementary, middle and high school students; senior citizens; the blind and disabled; single mothers; welfare children; anti-gang programs; public health; unions and the working poor.

The entire middle and lower socio-economic classes have been hit hard. This has happened while mansions, vacation homes and yachts are still being written off as a tax deduction.

The 1993 budget that our governor proposes will be even more devastating. Governor Wilson once stated that the public is not that interested in politics and doesn't get involved. He is right! Most people to complain and worry, yet when the opportunity arises for them to stand up for their rights, they aren't interested... even when their own financial, educational or family's future is at stake.

Last year, it was estimated that 120,000 people attended Los Angeles community colleges. 75 percent of them were minorities and 33.3 percent had an average yearly household income of $12,000 or less.

This year, if Governor Wilson has his way, community college students will be facing a new increase of $30 per unit, with no cap. Returning students, with bachelor's degrees, will be paying $140 per unit. Financial aid will be further reduced.

If you want to go to a university in the fall, remember that California State Universities have had a 60 percent increase in fees in the last two years, while Universities of California have had a 65 percent increase.

Doesn't this anger you?

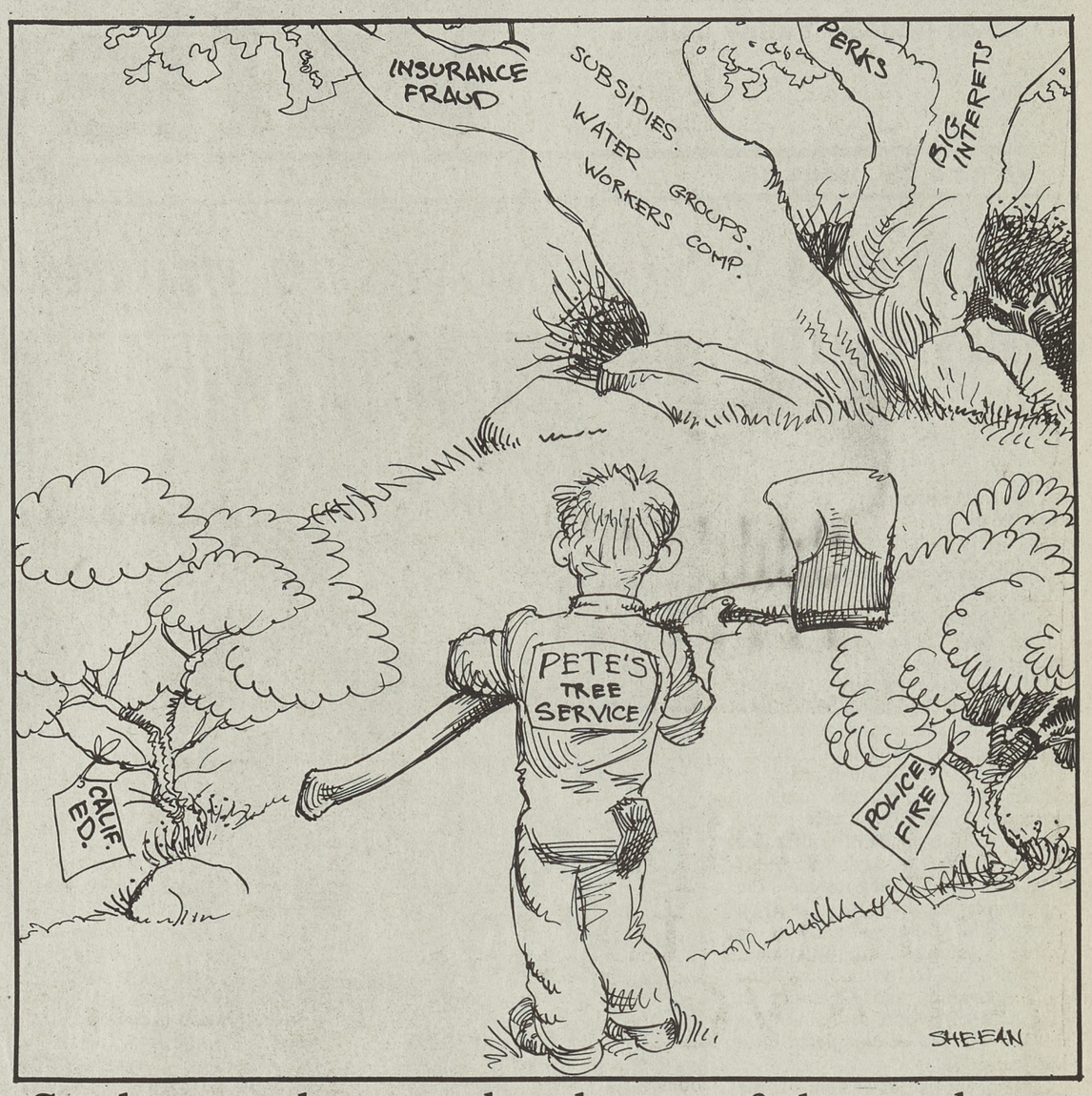
The purpose for the recall of Governor Wilson is to stop this trickle-down economics that is supposed to help our economy, yet it is only helping to make the middle class poor and the poor homeless. Education is a right, not a privilege. It is up to all of us to stand up and make a change.

Right now, we may be short of the number of signatures needed to stop the next two crippling budgets from Governor Wilson.

All signatures should be received by March 18. If you are interested in helping, please call (818) 782-0849 or (900) 740-VOTE.

Bonnie Anderson/Student

Los Angeles County Coodinator for the "Bite 'Em Back" Campaign



Students: take your heads out of the sand

By SARY FORNARIS
Opinion Editor

It seems that students at Los Angeles Valley College are suffering from the ostrich syndrome. Caution: by the time your heads leave the sand, your tails might be gone.

The issue here is your reaction on the wake of California Governor Pete Wilson's education budget cuts. And reaction to his increase of college credit fees, in an attempt to make up for the state loss of tax revenues needed to support the educational system.

Look at the trend and you will see the danger. In 1992, Wilson originally proposed to increase the fee per course credit to $20 at community colleges. Efforts from the California Association of Community Colleges and others, got it reduced to $10.

This year, he is talking about a $30 per unit fee for students without degrees and $140 for those with a bachelor's degree. If successful, negotiators will get another 50 percent bargain. I beg your pardon! Bargaining with our education? Don't you see it coming? Wilson is getting his way one step at a time.

Someone needs to ask the governor if he has any cap on these fee increases and budgets cuts? Has he exhausted all possible means of obtaining revenue or has he taken the easy way out? What about tackling some of the tax write-offs from the rich and powerful?

The reports of downsizing and the exodus of large companies from California to other states or countries that entice them with lower operational costs, speak of the future of the Golden State. Less jobs, less revenue, less hope

Someone is "rolling the dice" on you and you are "playing the game!" Even if your philosophy is that of "Me, myself and I," you are not living up to it. If the thought of "paying for your own murder" does not make you rebel, what would? What is it going to take for you to snap off this selfish, ignorant state of apathy?

Why are LAVC students so lax on this issue? "I think that students have been beaten up so much in the past two years, that they think they are not in control anymore," said Farell Broslawsky, LAVC professor of political science.

"The people in charge, do not want LAVC students to get an education. I think this whole thing is intentional. Wilson just wants to have a pool of cheap labor. Students need to realize that the problem is not going to go away."

It will take more than a few letters and a few phone calls to the government. It will take more than a few demonstrations at the City Hall and more than one visit to Sacramento. Students need to pull their heads out of the sand and get involved.

Letters to the Editor

The Valley Star prints this letter as a public service. We can not verify the accuracy of the statements herein.

To individuals requesting the 1992 directory of prescription drug indigent programs.

Thank you for your interest in the directory. The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) developd the directory to help your doctor more easily identify the increasing number of company-sponsored programs for patients who might not otherwise have access to necessary medicines.

The companies listed in the directory will be pleased to work with your physician. Please have your physician write to the following address for a copy of the directory:

1992 Directory of Pharmaceutical Indigent Programs
Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
1100 15th St., NW Washington DC 20000

Your physician will then be in a position to determine if there is a program that can help you and if so, can contact the appropriate company and request assistance for you.

We hope that the PMA directory will be of assistance to you and your physician.

Sincerely,
Gerald J. Mossinghoff
PMA President

Helping With Your Medical Needs

Dear Editor:
I have heard many expressing thanks to the Valley Star for printing my letter of Jan. 28.

The letter advised those unable to fill critical, expensive prescriptions that help is available to them through their physician.

After your publication, I received a letter which is an official statement of this program. If it is printed in the *Valley Star,* it will be the first time this statement will appear in a newspaper, including our metropolitan dailies.

Many Campus Clubs are volunteering to disseminate this information. The Student Health Service will make certain that all campuses know about this offer.

Bernie Christain, co-director with M.H. O'Connell of the Fitness Center, is recovering splendidly from medical attention for an old injury. During his absence, O'Connell took on double the work with a willingness. There was no breach in the services offered in the Center.

Now Bernie is working with his usual gusto, almost night and day, in the Orientation Process. His hope is that medical needs will be open to all.

Bill Fury
Student

Writer has no concept of what ASU does.

Dear Editor:

Please let me start out by saying that I am very pleased by the first edition of the Spring '93 *Valley Star.* I read the "Don't Leave Home Without It" article, and it made me chuckle. Realizing that people ridicule what they don't understand, I didn't take the article offensively and I did rather like the fact that your reporter is getting his money's worth for the card.

It seems that your staff writer has no concept of what we do here, and he did not want to take the time to find out as he has not spoken to me as Public Relations Officer.

I respect the fact that differing opinions do exist on this campus and I am equally glad that the *Valley Star* chooses to publish said opinions. The First Amendment is something the "scandalously elected" President and 20 "countless" commissioners hold very dearly.

Therefore, Mr. Finkel, as Commissioner of Public Relations, I invite your old, narrow-minded, ethnocentrist self to come to my office in Campus Center 102, office "K" and do some professional research into this multicultural, multiracial organization. Mr. Finkel, could you keep your Attitude Somewhat Unbiased?

Don Graham Jr.
ASU Commissioner of Public Relations

Ex-GI offers a gay perspective

By MILES GRANDFIELD
Staff Writer

"I can't help it, Bill," I said. "I wouldn't feel comfortable knowing that some gay guy might be checking me out in a barracks shower room."

A faint smile came to his face when I said that.

"Listen," Bill responded. "I have seen you in the shower many times back in high school and believe me, you have nothing to worry about."

Bill was my best friend growing up. Our relationship was based on a mutual interest in mechanics and physics and we spent hours dreaming up crazy inventions that would make us rich. He went on to become a rocket scientist in Livermore. I became a carpenter in L.A.

He told me he was gay one day while we were sitting in a restaurant and I had just professed a deep love for our waitress. He declared an interest in the busboy. I quickly changed the subject back to gizmos.

Since then I have looked forward to seeing him when he comes to town about once a year, but we generally steer our conversations away from anything of a sexual nature. This last time, though, I wanted to hear his views on gays in the military. (He spent four years in the Air Force).

"It's simple, really," he said. "Many thousands of homosexuals have served in the armed forces without lowering morale, causing disruptions or undermining military efficiency. It is a matter of historical record that a GI's private sexuality is irrelevant.

"To require gay inductees to lie, and declare themselves to be heterosexual in order to be admitted, is a calculated move to incriminate these people before they even take the oath. It is a violation of the Military Code of Justice to lie on your induction application. If it later comes to light that this person is gay, the prosecutor can say, 'Yes, this individual was a model soldier and no, his homosexuality never presented a problem, *but he lied on his induction papers.* He's outta here!' "

"But what if a case comes along where a guy *does* create a problem?" I asked.

"Very unlikely," he answered. "Any problems that arise would probably be initiated by straight guys reacting to some illusionary monster created by their own fear. *They* are the ones whom the law must regard as culpable.

"Look, man," he continued. "When I was in the Air Force, I wasn't going to go peeping at anybody in the shower room. Frankly, we (the gay community) are conditioned to view straight people with sexual indifference, not desire. We know that we're a minority and that any overt display of our sexual orientation is going to make a lot of people uncomfortable...especially in the military. We keep that part of our lives to ourselves. But to drum some poor guy out of the service because he doesn't feel like going with the boys down to Madame Fifi's Whoopee Parlor is stupid."

"I see your point," I said. (And I did). "Now, can we get back to my idea about the human-powered helicopter?"

"Yeah, sure,"

"Hey, wait a minute," I said. "What did you mean with that crack about me not having anything to worry about?"

"Nothin' man," he said. "Forget about it."

Valley Star

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★★★★★ **LETTERS** **LETTERS** ★★★★★

The **Valley Star** is happy to receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers.

The **Star** reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations.

Letters should be signed and include student's major and ID number. Letters may be presented to the **Valley Star** office, Bungalow 25, by Monday **morning** for the following Thursday.

ADAM CROCKER / Valley Star

Art student Julie Jackson peers through the glass of a locked refrigerator in the cafeteria.

Thefts prompt 'jailed' food

By STEVEN KOSOY
Staff Writer

Due to food theft in the cafeteria, recent changes have been made, in the elimination of self-service for students and faculty.

In past semesters, cafeteria workers had to stop people from stealing food almost daily, cafeteria manager Albert Fierro said Tuesday.

"It's worth it. Since the food has been locked up, thefts have nearly completely stopped," Fierro said.

Additionally, all food service is now located in one room of the cafeteria. There are four food stations with one cash register each.

Fierro stated, "There's more work for us now. Now the cafeteria workers must handle everything. However, the cafeteria staff's opinion is favorable."

"I like it better," agreed cafeteria worker Marita Knaapen. "It makes me sick [to see the theft]," said Knaapen.

There has been mixed response from the students.

"I don't like the change," said business major Nancy Godinez. "You don't have a choice to take food you like. You have to pay at different registers for different food. It was better [the other way]," Godinez continued.

Biology major Renee Horwich liked the changes, commenting that the lines are shorter.

The cafeteria's Assistant Manager Rose Whalen says that most of the complaints she has heard come from the faculty. "I tell them to give us a little time. We're trying to iron out the areas that need work. Every body's adjusting," said Whalen.

All of the cafeteria workers stress that the system of eliminating self service from the cafeteria is still in the experimental stage.

Fierro pointed out that in the old system students still waited in lines, after they received their food. Now, when the food is in the students' hands it has been paid for.

Campus police Captain Karl Traber supported this change saying, "It was a very good move." He stressed that the change came from the cafeteria staff themselves.

Traber commented, "When we saw it [the new system] we applauded it." He said that the police do not have the manpower to watch the cafeteria all the time.

Although Traber stressed that the police will still be around to respond to any calls, he said that an advantage of the new system is that it will free police officers to concentrate better on areas where problems are.

One additional bonus for the students, Traber pointed out, is that it is more sanitary, since there will be no one handling the food except the cafeteria staff.

NEWS BRIEFS

Add and drop dates: The last day to process added classes is Friday Feb. 5. The last day to drop classes without receiving a "W" is Thursday Feb. 11.

Graduation deadline: The deadline for filing for spring '93 graduation is Friday Feb. 5 at 4 p.m. Petitions are available in the Administraion 127.

Art Show: On Monday Feb. 1 the LAVC Art Gallery held a reception for its new art show featuring the work of David Starrett. The show will run until Mar. 4. Gallery hours are Monday thru Thursday 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. For information call (818) 781-1200 ext. 400.

Financial Aid workshops: Financial Aid workshops will be held in the Cafeteria Conference Room on Monday Feb. 8, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Science Lectures: The Earth Science Department is holding a spring lecture series in celebration of its 39th semester. The series runs on Tuesdays on Feb. 9, Feb. 23, Mar. 9, Mar. 23, Apr. 13, Apr. 20, and May 11. They will be held at noon in the Math Science building in 113.

PAP helps students to go to LAVC

By HARRIET STEINBERG
Staff Writer

There are many students who would not be attending Los Angeles Valley College if it were not for the Priority Application Program (PAP).

PAP begins working with high school students at the beginning of their senior year. The purpose of this program is to allow students to be assessed and to receive an orientation about the campus at an early date so they can be prepared way in advance to go to college.

LAVC counselors help each student prepare their program and register them for their first semester even though they are still in high school. If a pupil is found to need remedial reading, English, or math, the counselors will make a recommendation to them regarding their placement.

According to Doris Richardson, PAP coordinator, packets are provided in the LAVC area to give to their students. The packet includes information about the college and an application for admissions form.

"Three to four thousand packets are taken to the high schools by career and guidance counselor assistants who are graduate students," said Richardson. "They are hired by the college to assist with recruitment," she added.

Assistants talk about the various programs here on campus such as the transfer, two-year degree or certificate programs. They also talk about financial aid.

High school students who are interested in going to LAVC will fill out the application and their school counselors will send them back to the college Admissions Office. After they have filed their application, students are assessed either on their own campus or at LAVC.

Following assessment, pupils are invited to the college for Senior Day. Students come on buses to take a tour of the campus and attend advisement sessions to help them select their classes. Counselors also assist with their registration for the first semester. If a person cannot attend Senior Day, they can come to a special session which is held on a Saturday.

Richardson feels that a lot of students would not come to LAVC if it were not for the PAP program.

"Many think that because they don't have the preparatory courses from high school, they can't go to college. Valley college is trying to inform them that this may be a second chance for some. It is an alternative for those who are "A" students but choose to come here to do their two years, then transfer to a four-year college," said Richardson.

"Lots of students come and say I can't get my classes at CSUN, so I'm coming back to Valley. UCLA students have the same problem," added Richardson.

The aids who are supervised by Counseling Chair Dr. Synthia Saltoun are helpful because they go out to the schools and give information about the program. "The counselors do the actual counseling," said Richardson.

Richardson feels that Valley College is a good school and offers good opportunities. "We hope that the students come here. We believe we do an excellent job," she said.

SUBWAY *(Continued from page 1).*

Fernando Valley for the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission, stated in a phone interview that "We've looked at ways of building various light rail systems in the Valley for a number of years... but we had a lot of resistance from residents in the North Hollywood area to any train running above ground" (such as with a monorail system). The LACTC is the agency responsible for planning and building the Los Angeles Metro.

Because of some heavyweight local political influence exerted in Sacramento, "The State Legislature passed a law stating that any rail system built between the Hollywood Freeway and Hazeltine Avenue has to be a subway system," Mieger added.

The LACTC is currently looking at extensions of the Metro Red Line from Universal City and North Hollywood going west to Warner Center, according to Mieger.

There are two alternative routes for the East-West line; one running along the Ventura Freeway while the other follows the Southern Pacific/Burbank branch right of way.

"If the Burbank branch is selected, then there will be a station at Valley College," Mieger stated. The LACTC held a vote on the issue last week, but did not end up choosing either line, instead authorizing additional studies of the proposed routes.

The two alternatives that the LACTC is exploring are also two to three times more expensive than a light rail system running above ground, Mieger noted.

Such a system, going from North Hollywood to Warner Center— a distance of about 14 miles— would cost approximately $1 billion.

The tab for a grade-separated system, running above the Ventura Freeway, would be about $2 billion, while building a subway under the Burbank Bridge would cost about $3 billion.

These estimates are in 1998 dollars, the year that Mieger estimates will be the mid-year of the project.

Speech goes to top

By ANDREW SAMUELSON
Staff Writer

For the past 23 years, the most successful team on the Los Angeles Valley College campus has been neither the football, baseball, or basketball teams. Rather, the most successful team has been the speech team.

During this period, they have finished in the top five in the nation every year but one excluding a three year hiatus that ended in 1989.

The sport is academic rather than physical but requires physical endurance and a sacrifice in time that varies between 15 and 20 hours a week and close to 20 hours on a weekend researching the topic and practicing the speech.

"Forensic people are more successful people," said Coach Marty Taras. "They can deal better with life because essentially, life is communication."

For those people that have not taken speech, forensics is the study of argumentation and formal debate, according to the Random House Dictionary. In the hours not spent in the class, the team perfects the forensics with the help of other students and graduated students.

There are different areas in forensics that members will compete. Some of the areas include persuasive, informative and communicative analysis.

"Marty and Betty Ballew (the team's other coach) emphasize team," Josh Miller, a speech team member said. "Although it is ultimately an individual event, we really push each other. There are no egos on this team," he stated.

Speech team members are recruited out of classes in the speech communication department Taras said.

"New people coming into forensics go to one or two tournaments a year," Taras said, "then the next year they'll be ready to compete in more tournaments."

The success of the team has produced scholarships in the past, and Taras said that as many as six of the 14 members could get a scholarship this year.

The team will play in three tournaments this month. On President's week-end, they will be at Cerritos College and Biola University at the same time.

"I want to send some with different coaches who will specialize in their field," Taras said.

A week later they will be at Pasadena City College for the Spring Championships which leads them to the State Championships at Moorpark College in the first week of March.

The pinnacle, according to Miller, is the national finals which will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Odessa,Texas in April.

"It's an awesome feeling because there are 500-600 people in the hotel from all across the nation there for the tournament," Miller said. "You meet some friends, but you also have to realize that you will be competing against these guys," he stated.

Taras came from Harbor College in 1969, after taking their team to 14 in the nation. Before that, he worked in the educational television field as a producer and director.

He has been the forensic coach for the past 23 years at Valley and will retire after two more years of coaching. He said he got "hooked" on it from the start and has been doing it since.

"I don't emphasize winning," Taras said. "Hard work and dedication will result in first place prizes."

If the past can foresee the future, the forensics team will not have anything to worry about at the nationals in April.

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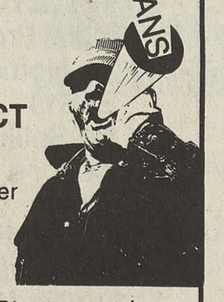
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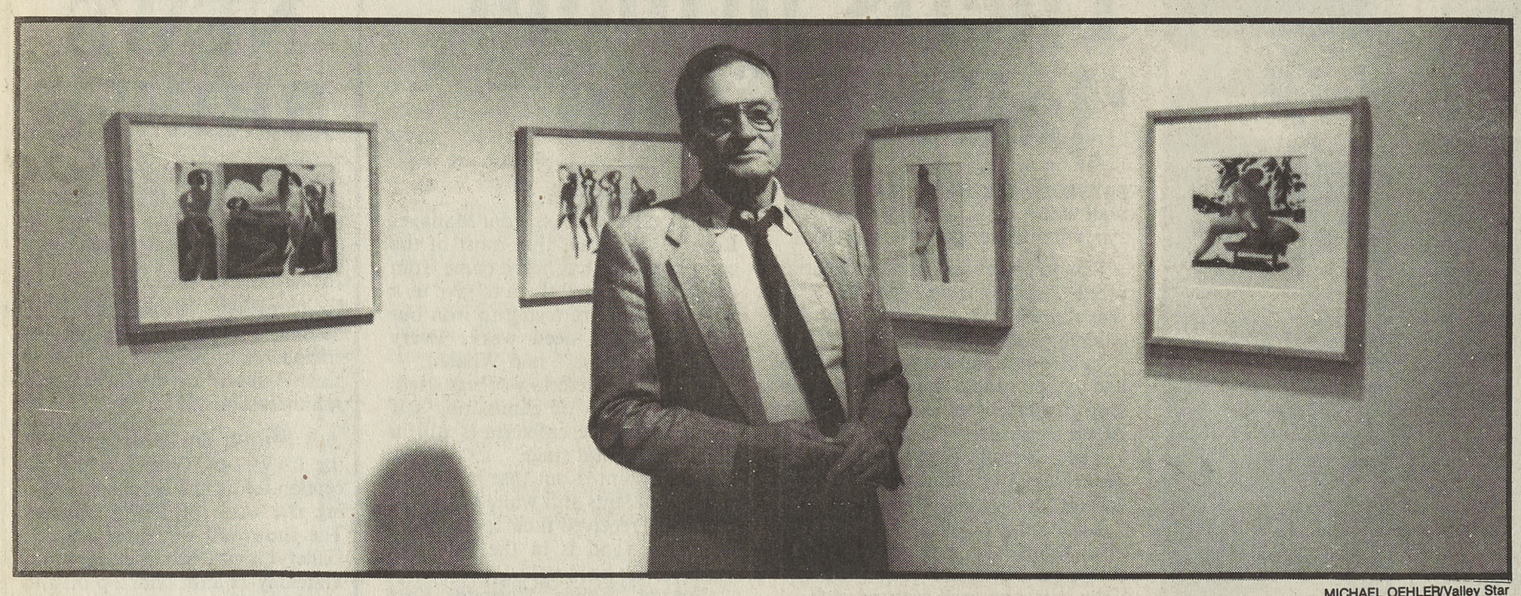

MICHAEL OEHLER/Valley Star

Professor David Starrett stepped into the Valley College art gallery to attend the opening of a show featuring his work in watercolor.

Starrett paints, friends talk

By RONIT Le MON
Staff Writer

The room is awash with light. The track lights point downward, towards the surface of the paintings and towards the plaster, giving off a glow that illuminates the gallery and its visitors.

David Starrett, artist and Los Angeles Valley College art professor, stands in the entry way greeting friends. He welcomes them to the LAVC Art Gallery with a smile and a warm hug that envelopes them.

"This is all my stuff," he says, sweeping back an arm to gesture to the works.

His "stuff" is a series of watercolor paintings done over the last ten years of the nude female form. The forms are rounded and fertile with strokes of watercolor layered over the other in clear lines.

"What strikes you," says George Dickerson, longtime friend of the artist, "is the variety. Basically, each is the same painting, but it isn't. There is infinite variety."

The works are simple washes of color, giving the impression of the form of a woman without much detail or background. The colors are, in turn, bright and fanciful, and dark and pensive.

Each woman's lines are suggested, capturing the basics of the figure. Some of the works make use of white space to complete the silhouette, while others include the pencil outlines of the original sketch. The figures are caught in a moment of joyous movement.

"This show is a departure," states Stuart Kushner, friend, previous student of Starrett and artist. "His works show strength. The color may be interpreted as the color that may be reflecting off the form or as fantasy."

Kushner continues, "He uses negative and leaves the sketch lines in. He even uses his name as a design element, sometimes it is part of the work, while other times it balances it."

Starrett, surrounded by a group of people, states, "I like to talk about the shape of figures. The way color plays on them."

The forms in the paintings are representations of female models that Starrett uses for his classes. Dickerson's wife, a world class model, has modeled for the artist in the past.

"After he looks at your wife's nude body for years, you have to be friends or enemies," he says jokingly.

Dickerson continues, "Seriously, what strikes me is how simply he evokes the female form caught in a moment of motion. Masters strive to get closer to the essence. What counts is what is evocative and pleasing to the eye."

The artist says that he has been painting since he was ten—years—old. He has shown his work in America and internationally. It is in this show, however, that the artist's personality comes through, explains Kushner.

"David is now looking in a way that he hasn't before. His works are a celebration. They are so full of life. David has an incredible exuberance for life and it comes through," says Kushner.

Starrett has been teaching for the past 30 years. He is now an LAVC art instructor and teaches art history, drawing, watercolor and oils. His teaching style is as evocative as his work, says Kushner.

"I remember being in his class and he asked us to think about tomatoes. We all went home and drew tomatoes. The next day he looked at them and asked us to do more. This went on for sixteen weeks [the semester]. Some people left but others of us really got into it. We wanted to know what was in his mind, what he wanted. I did everything — I crushed tomatoes on the canvas, I took them apart. At the end, I just wrote about a tomato and he said ok. I know everything about it now, how it works, what it's made of," Kushner stated.

Starrett, the professor, is always accessible. His students find him easy to talk to and responsive to their questions says Kushner.

"He's a talented man, but most of all he's a great human being. He gives to his students. He's very dedicated and he never loses his spark," he says.

Starrett, standing with his arm around a friend at the buffet table, comes over to Kushner and Dickerson. Leaning forward and smiling he says, "What are you saying about me? Don't believe them. Actually, you guys know me better than I know myself."

"We do," laughs Kushner, "and what I am looking forward to is the next thirty years of his productivity."

IMS will offer free movies on campus

By J.D. WOLVERTON
Staff Writer

Some of Hollywood's biggest box office successes over the past forty years are being screened this semester by Instructional Media Services in room 101 of the Behavioral Sciences building.

Dr. Shannon Stack, director of IMS, has drawn up a varied schedule that includes representative examples from a number of film genres, including comedy, drama, musical, and detective/crime.

Dr. Stack said that several of the films have been selected because they touch on ideas or themes that are related to the subjects of courses currently taught at LAVC.

For example, in the series opening film "Chinatown," Robert Towne's Oscar-winning screenplay explores in fictional form the murky story of how Los Angeles got its water supply. This saga forms part of the narrative of recent California history, which is the subject of a current course offering.

Referring to the one non-English language title on the list, "Les Enfants du Paradis," Dr. Stack said that "it's a wonderful thing to be able to see a film where, for example, our language students can hear beautifully spoken French." One of the great classics of world cinema, "Children of Paradise," was made by the gifted team of writer Jacques Prevert and director Marcel Carne at the end of the Nazi occupation of France, and released following the Liberation.

The Germans allowed filming because the story was set in the 19th-century, and the story was ostensibly non-political, dealing with the world of the theatre. The filmmakers were able to enlist some of the greatest actors of the French stage and screen to appear in the picture, such as Jean-Louis Barrault and Arletty. For any buffs who enjoy movies that creatively realize the full potential of the medium to enlighten and entertain, "Children of Paradise" is a must-see.

The Spring semester schedule is as follows:

3/3 Chinatown (1974)
3/10 Lilies of the Field (1963)
3/17 The Quiet Man (1952)
3/24 Sunset Boulevard (1950)

4/7 All About Eve (1950)
4/14 Les Enfants du Paradis (1946)
4/21 The Last Wave (1977)
4/28 Romeo and Juliet (1968)

5/5 A Place in the Sun (1951)
5/12 My Fair Lady (1964)

All films are in video format on a large screen, shown Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free, but is limited to students enrolled at LAVC.

French guitarist to give concert

By ROBERT MAIZE
Entertainment Editor

Internationally acclaimed classical guitarist, Olivier Chassain, will give a concert Sunday, Feb. 7, in the Music Recital Hall at Los Angeles Valley College.

Chassain is a professor for the National School of Music in France and also teaches guitar at the conservatories in Orleans and Bordeaux.

This event is being presented with the cooperation of the Guitar Foundation of America, represented here by Robert Mayeur, LAVC guitar instructor. Mayeur noted that Chassain won the international competition of the guitar organization in 1988 and that "He is one of the top guitarists in France."

The concert will feature the debut performance of an original work by Chassain, "Etoiles" ("Stars"), composed in 1992.

Besides numerous awards and concerts in Europe and America, Chassain's first recording was chosen by Air France for its "in-flight music" program on the Airbus Concorde, Boeing 747.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, a Master Class will be given in the recital hall for students to play for and then be evaluated by Chassain. The class is open to the public.

Admission to the evening concert is $5 with LAVC I.D. and senior citizens, $6 general admission.

Olivier Chassain will give a concert this Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Cinderella Waltz— fairy tale or deranged psycho-drama?

By STEVEN KOSOY
Staff Writer

"I think I've stumbled into a fairy tale," heroine Rosey Snow says in "Cinderella Waltz," the new play being performed by the Valley Collegiate Players in the Horsehoe Theatre tonight through Saturday. However, "Cinderella Waltz" is not so much of a fairy tale as it is a psychological portrait of a family of unhappy and mixed-up people.

The play is obviously a reworking of the Brothers Grimms' Cinderella but this time it is the Snow family, complete with stepmother, step-sisters, and Rosey as the servant step-daughter. And everyone is given emotional problems in a setting that is neither modern nor traditional. (Trolls and elves co-exist with people wearing modern day clothing.)

As is the trend in new versions of fairy tales, Rosey, played by Leah Henteleff, is a modern thinker. She does not dream of being swept away by a handsome prince, but simply of a better life,

The step-sisters Goneril and Regan get much better treatment than in the original work. Goneril is played by Ashley Kelly as an angry, self-loathing woman who is unhappy with her life and family. The younger step-daughter Regan, played by Corinne McLuckie, is extremely non-malicious, but is easily influenced by her mother and sister.

One of the outstanding characters in the play is the village idiot Zed, portrayed by Adam S. Birstock, who runs the gamut from inaudible moron to articulate wise man. Although he receives his share of laughs, his character is the most serious. He is the one who forces Rosey to examine herself, her needs and desires, and ultimately has a stronger impact on her life than her fairy godmother.

Another standout performance is given by Andrea Posey as the stepmother Mrs. Snow. Wearing outrageous wigs and costumes that look like a Peg Bundy ("Married With Children") nightmare, Posey dominates most of her scenes with expression reminiscent of a young Ethel Merman.

It is clear that a great deal of care was taken with the production of "Cinderella Waltz." The set is professionally first rate, although minimalistic: a housefront, a well, a trough, a tree stump, and a gravestone. Attention to detail is shown by the dried leaves and dirt covering the floor of the stage and the intricate stonework and ivy on the wall.

Seeing the set while waiting for the show to begin creates a vivid image and helps transport the audience into another time and place (although they never say exactly when or where that is.)

While the size and shape of the Horseshoe Theatre gives a close up intimacy with the performers, it also causes some problems with visual blockage. With the audience literally wrapped around the stage on three sides, at times characters are obscured by props or other characters. Fortunately this does not happen too often.

If any changes need to be made in "Cinderella Waltz," it would be in the final 10 seconds of the play. They go for one last laugh instead of playing it straight, which would have ended the play with a poignant and thought-provoking scene.

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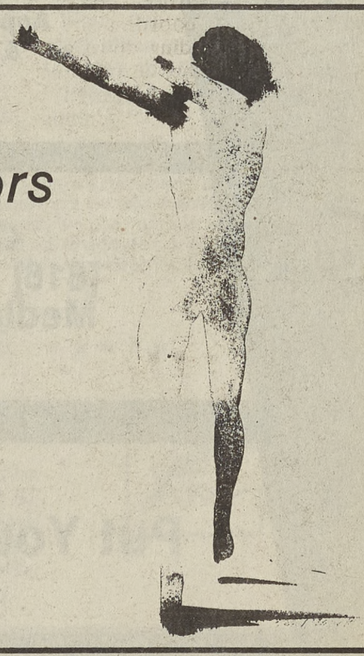
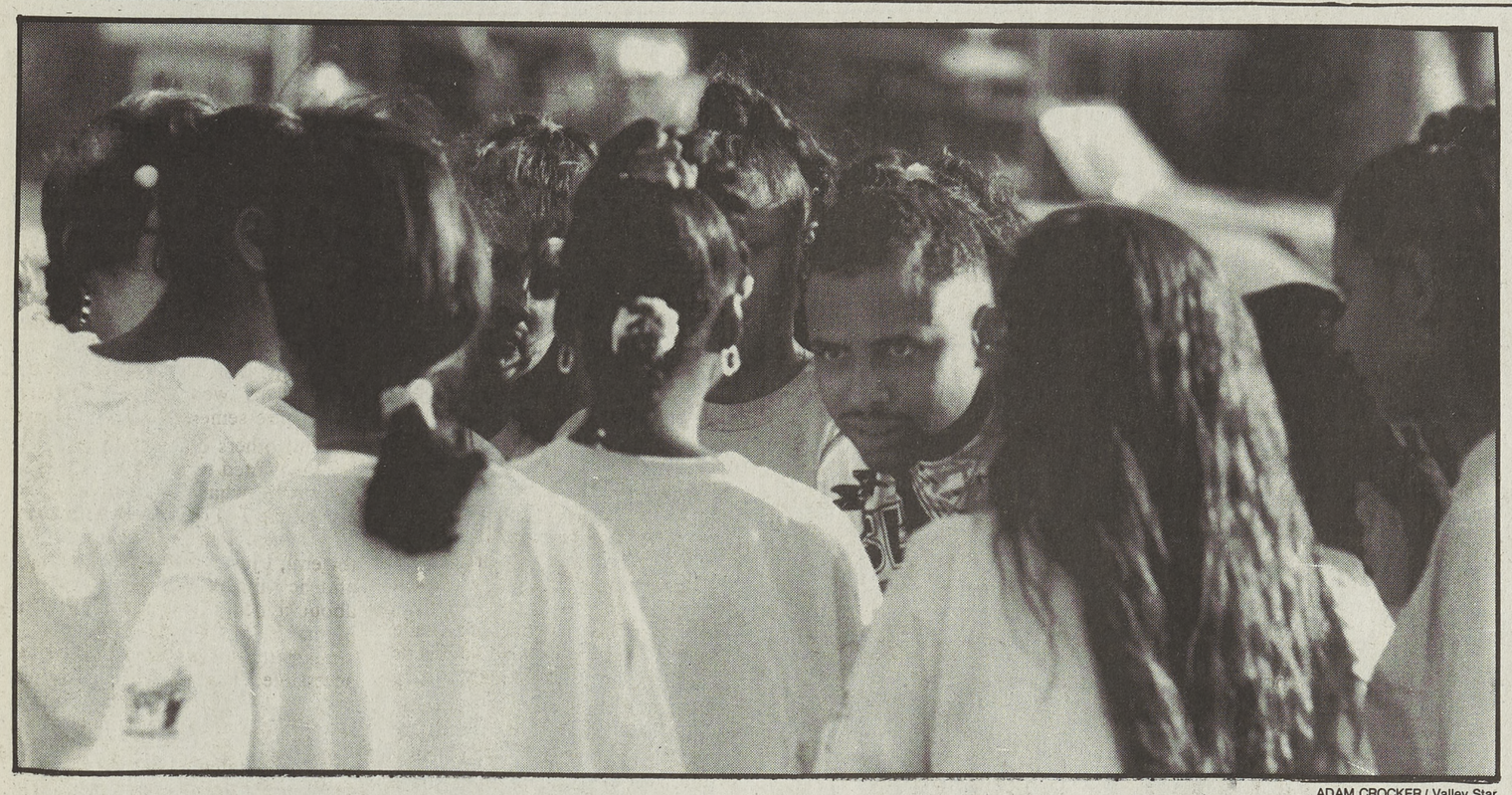




ADAM CROCKER / Valley Star

LAPD Officer Tony Newsome created the "Down the Street" program to help kids find alternatives to recreational opportunities offered on the streets. Here he gives a pep-talk to members of the Police Action League dance troop, who performed during the Super Bowl half-time show.

Student volunteer

Williams' passion sets kids straight

By RONIT Le MON
Staff Writer

"I have a passion for it," says Johanna Williams, a 31-year-old Los Angeles Valley College student as she sits in the Quad before her class.

What Williams has a passion for is helping kids of all age groups stay off drugs and out of gangs.

As an undeclared major at LAVC, Williams has spent her time in the political science department, the communications department and the sociology department. It was during a sociology class, taught by Michael Vivian, that she became interested in working with youths.

"I know that the time is right socially. It's like the '60s are back again. My first sociology class, with Vivian, got me more information. I took it to get involved," says Williams.

And get involved she did. It was in her sociology class that Williams heard a presentation on a program called Keeping Youth Doing Something (KYDS). Since the presentation, she has volunteered to work with high-risk kids in Lanark Park in the Canoga Park area.

The organization is a joint effort among the West Valley Police Department, Councilwoman Joy Picus' office and the Canoga Park community.

"The kids were great," Williams says smiling, "I volunteered to serve them food and just to hang out with them."

The children in this program were found through social services and target by schools as being potentially in line for drug abuse or gang involvement. Through sports and college-age role models, it is hoped that they will be able to stop what they are doing and realize that there is another way to live.

"We tutor the kids, give gang awareness seminars and have hands-on daily follow-up with the students at home, school...wherever they need help," says Officer Tony Newsom, project coordinator. "These kids were heading down a wrong path with no other direction. Now, one of our girls went from an "F" average to a "B" average in a year," he says.

For Williams, volunteering in only one program was not enough. Through her and Newsom's karate instructor, D'Mitch Davis, she found out that Newsom had another project in the works that would not only consist of working one-on-one with the kids. The project would reach every household at the same time.

The concept is a cartoon called "Down The Street" and it features animated renderings of Newsom, Davis and Officer Alejandra Gallekos. In the format of the show, the toons will solve real-life problems for children living in high-risk neighborhoods. Kids are asked to write in with their dilemmas and to watch the show to see them resolved.

"This is not LAPD related. With the LAPD, I can only go to certain houses, but as a toon I can go to every kid's house," says Newsom.

The cartoon has spawned a live version called "Down The Street Live" based on the same concept. Newsom, Davis and Gallekos will solve the kids' problems with the help of other children. The show will be packaged in an MTV-type format, with video clips of teen talent intercut with the action, to get older teens to tune in.

Williams volunteered to be the show arranger, a position comparable to associate producer. She was interviewed along with 35 other applicants and she got the position. The job was an internship at first, but now she is getting paid.

Williams' duties include formatting the show, talent searching for video clips for "Down The Street Live" and overseeing tapings.

"We chose Johanna because of her diligence. She has a lot of heart," says Newsom.

Williams has a lot of heart and motivation. It was her move to Los Angeles at the age of eight that shaped her decision to get involved with kids, she says.

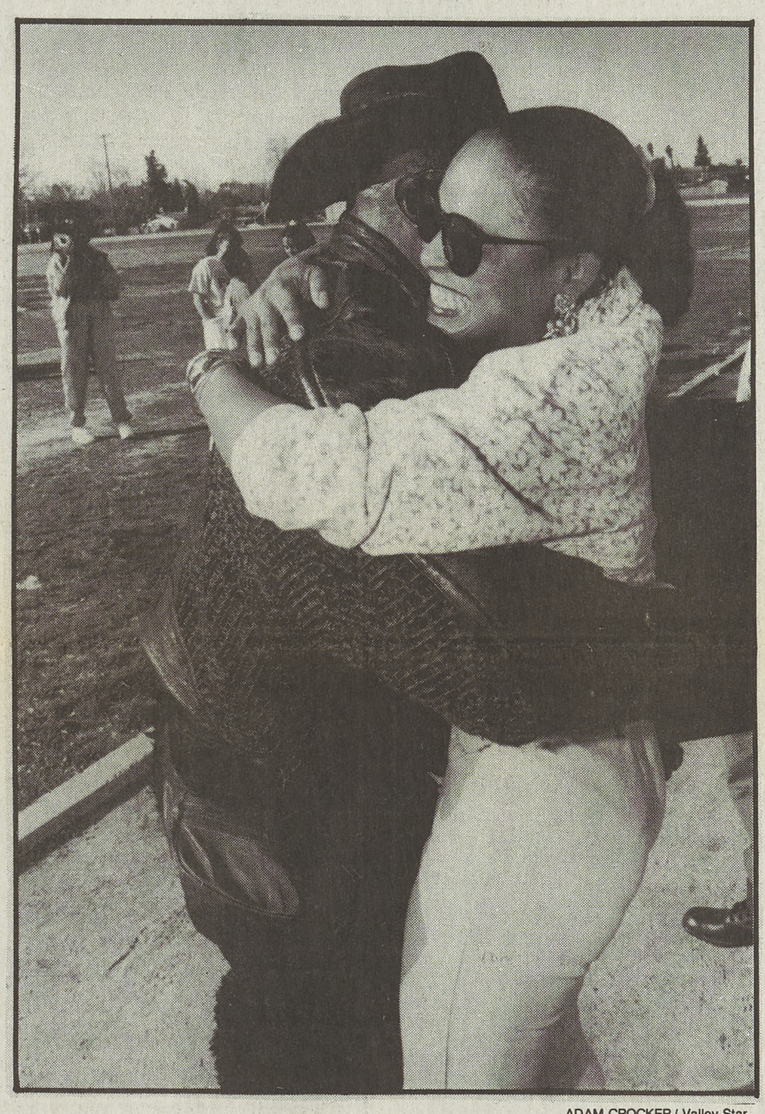
"I was born in Louisiana. There was a housing project down the street but I was surrounded by my family. I came here when I was eight and went to school. My neighborhood had gangs. People would be fighting at bus stops," says Williams.

Williams continues, "It was hard for me growing up with people who did drugs. I've been embarrassed by having to say no. You live through it. They call you 'square,' but you live. I could see what it was doing to others."

It is lack of self-esteem that is the problem for these kids, says Williams. They must get a sense of self and look to the future to combat the lure of substance abuse.

"Johanna grew up in the middle of gang warfare. She was self-assured and she didn't become a product of her environment. She's a great role model for girls coming out of these neighborhoods," says Newsom.

"I hope I can be an example," says Williams, "I want to tell them that you can be hip and cool without doing drugs. You can create your own family without a gang. I have so many people I love that I call my family."



ADAM CROCKER / Valley Star

KYDS volunteer Johanna Williams and "Down the Street" toon character D'Mitch Davis trade hugs on location at Monroe High.

Clubs provide forums, services

By STEVEN KOSOY
Staff Writer

The Valley College campus is a varied one, consisting of members of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Being representative of the students it serves, the Associated Students Union (ASU) sponsors different clubs designed to fit the needs of the different people, each club with its own important goal.

Education is the primary goal for the Black Student Union (BSU). Although the BSU offers insight into African-American culture and history, first and foremost on their agenda is helping the student.

BSU Senate Representative Casey Landsman says they work to get people into community college from the high schools, then on to a four-year university. They have a high school network team to get the students into Valley College, he says. Once there, the BSU members act as counselors for the new students.

Landsman explains that one of the reasons that this service is so important is that much of the transfer information in the school office is not up to date. "We get the current information and relate that to the students in the high schools," he says.

Steven Jackson, a BSU past president, also emphasizes education as the BSU's main goal. Although academics represent their number one priority, education of culture, attitudes and social awareness also play a part.

In this regard, they co-sponsored an anti-Columbus day rally with MEChA on campus.

Landsman says that they tried to show how Columbus has affected the Native Americans as well as other minorities. He stresses that this demonstration, just as the BSU's primary goal, was just for information.

"It was not directed at anybody," Landsman says. "It was for us."

BSU's work has not gone unnoticed. Recently, they were honored for civil obedience during the Los Angeles riots by Los Angeles Police Chief Willie Williams at a formal ceremony.

Jackson says that there were no problems on campus during the riots, or "in the communities we work with." Williams credited the BSU with helping to keep the area calm.

The BSU is "like a family thing," Second Secretary of Council Staff Tisha Davis says. Although academics forms such a major part of the BSU, Davis stressed the importance of another aspect — member support.

"We're a very close-knit organization," Davis says. Here is a place where people can go for help, for counseling, and tutoring. "It's not just a club like a frat or sorority," she says. "We're there to help one another."

At the BSU meetings every Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Lion's Den in Monarch Hall, members also educate themselves with a topic of the week. Davis explained that the topics are designed to teach "what's going on in the world, how to make it in the world, and how to get along with other races."

For the future, Jackson is looking upward for the BSU. "I'd like to see the club go to a higher graduation percentage from where it [currently] stands," he says.

Education plays an important role in the ideals of the Filipino Club, as well. However, where the BSU focuses on success in academic education as its primary goal, the Filipino Club focuses primarily on the education in one's own self for Filipino students, says Luzuiminda Shin, the club's advisor.

According to Shin, the mission of the Filipino Club is to foster some kind of unity among Filipinos, to develop some kind of civic consciousness, as well as encourage Filipinos to get involved with cultural activities.

These goals, Shin explains, are most important to Filipinos whose families have been here for two or three generations.

While first-generation Filipinos are still deeply involved with their culture, many Filipinos assimilate so heavily into the dominant American culture that they have little or no knowledge of their identity, Shin says.

"There's nothing wrong with assimilation, just don't forget your roots," Shin says of the club members, and the Filipino community in general.

Although "first generation" Filipinos have no trouble understanding their cultural identity, the Filipino Club does offer them another valuable service. It offers them a support group. As Shin says, "They want belonging." With all of the difficulties that go along with moving to a different cultural lifestyle, a sense of belonging makes one feel less alone, and makes the entire process of learning the new lifestyle easier, Shin says.

To help foster a sense of belonging and unity, the Filipino Club often interacts with Filipino clubs from other campuses, as well as teaching the members about what is happening in the Philippines.

Shin wants members to "be aware of what they can do with what's going on there [in the Philippines]." And they are starting to do that. For example, they have been involved in fundraising for the victims of the earthquake and volcano in the Philippines.

For the future of the Filipino Club, Shin says she would like to see them create more of a "forum for academic concerns."

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Sports Calendar

Men's Basketball

2/6	Bakersfield	Home	7:30 p.m.
2/10	Santa Monica	Home	7:30 p.m.
2/13	College of the Canyons	Away	7:30 p.m.
2/17	West L.A.	Away	7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

2/6	Bakersfield	Home	5:30 p.m.
2/10	Santa Monica	Home	5:30 p.m.
2/13	College of the Canyons	Away	5:30 p.m.
2/17	Pierce	Away	7 p.m.

Baseball

2/5-7	San Diego Mesa Tourney	Away	T.B.A.
2/9	Mission	Away	2 p.m.
2/11-14	Palm Springs	Away	T.B.A.
2/16	Santa Monica	Away	2 p.m.

BOB LaCATTIVA / Valley Star

Valley's Brian Jackson battles for position with West Los Angeles' Kieth London. Jackson won the battle with 12 points, 12 rebounds and 7 assists as the Monarchs won the war 56-50. The Monarchs are 2-2 in the Western State's Conference and 7-16 overall.

Monarchs enjoy the sweet taste of honey

By DANA MEADOR
Staff Writer

The Men's Basketball Team's 56-50 victory over West Los Angeles is a sweet one. Sugar maybe sweeter, but this win comes at the right time and it is much needed. The team has found the right ingredients and this fresh batch of talent is starting to bake the opposition.

The Monarchs are 2-2 in conference play and their record is 7-16. Forward Joe Mauldin finished the game off with 10 points. Center Brian Jackson almost had a triple double with an impressive show of 12 points, 12 rebounds and 7 assists. Guard Anthony Jackson put in 9 of his own. Forward Wayne Carlisle had the hot hands with 17 points.

Mauldin, Carlisle and Brian Jackson, we'll call them Triple Threat, are leading scorers and rebounders for the Monarchs. Their consistent play and hard work is paying off. Carlisle, who is the tallestplayer at 6 feet 7 inches, is a Freshman with the "Midas Touch" from the floor, including three-point land.

At 6 feet 2 inches, Mauldin has become a terror for opposing teams. He plays basketball, football and track. Whatever the sport is, Mauldin is a natural. This season Mauldin has proved that he is an outstanding player.

Brian Jackson, is a Freshman who has been a great contributor to the team. The 6 foot 4 inch, 220 pounder is one of the best players on this year's squad.

Other Monarchs on the squad are Goldie Jonesand Joseph Eddings. Both contribute their talent in the backcourt.

Eddings is a sophomore who came from Cleveland High School. He can play several positions and that is useful in key situations. Jones is a freshman who is quick and has great vision. By spotting the open man, Jones will no doubt be the leading assist man.

"I have to guard Amy Horst, Lucinda Silva and Julie Nelson in practice, so it makes me a better player."

—Nedra Chambers

When you're good, you're good.

Women's basketball is good, but they seem to get better with every game they play. In their game with Pierce, the Lady Monarchs blew their opponents out of the water. With a 81-59 win, their record is 23-4. Their conference play has been superb with nine wins and one loss.

Rosa Mendez, a sophomore guard, who plans to work in electronics had 14 points and 6 assists. Guard Nicole Baynes, scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Amy Horst, center, finished the game with 12 points.

Pierce is 2-8 in conference play and their record is 6-16. The Lady Monarch's won this game early, leading Pierce 44-28 at half-time. By the end of the game, Pierce became another victim for the roaring lions (Monarchs).

The pieces of this season are falling into the big picture. With outstanding play on offense and defense, the Lady Monarchs are striving for that icing on the cake. The icing would be to win the championship. "I think we have a good chance in making it to the playoffs," said Forward Nedra Chambers.

This is Chambers' first semester at Los Angeles Valley College. She was on the Reseda High School team that was Tri-League Champs in '91-'92.

Chambers said, "This team has a lot of heart."

In practice the Lady Monarchs work on shooting drills, plays and running. To work on free throw shooting, the Lady Monarch's have free throw competitions. Five groups of players try to make it to the magic number of 35. The two groups that make it to this number get to rest while the other groups get to run.

A self-proclaimed hustler, Chambers likes to mix it up with the big players. She's aggresive and tries to get the rebounds. "I have to guard Amy Horst, Lucinda Silva and Julie Nelson in practice, so it makes me a better player," Chambers said.

By the end of the game, Pierce had become another victim of the roaring lions.

She relives one of her best moves that came in the Golden State Tournament. Chambers posted a 6 foot1 inch' player, gave her a fake that got her to jump in the air and motioned around her to get two points.

"Doug Michelson is a good coach," said Chambers. "If you have a problem he's always there to help you," she added.

The team is similiar to a family that shares in the good times and consoles each other when times are rough. "After our Ventura game, which ended in a defeat, Coach Michelson said that was the past and we have to prepare for the next game," Chambers said.

After that loss, the Lady Monarchs won nine of their last ten games.

BRENDA MUNOZ / Valley Star

Valley's Nedra Chambers pulls up as Michelle Brewer of Pierce cuts off the lane during the Lady Monarch's 81-59 win last Saturday.

Baseball steps up to the plate

By RONIT LE MON
Staff Writer

Spring is here.

Well, it is almost here and the Los Angeles Valley Monarchs Baseball team is gearing up for the next season.

The Monarchs finished the Western State Conference winter season in fifth place with 16 wins and 20 losses. "We had a really good season," says Head Baseball Coach Chris Johnson, "and we're better this year than last."

The team is beginning the season with 14 of its previous members out of a total of 29. "We have a good mix of older guys and solid freshmen. A couple of freshmen won the 'alls' last year - all city, all valley - so we know that they will be able to play at this level," says Johnson.

Not only are there new players on the team, but the Conference itself has changed this season. Last year, the Monarchs played each team twice and ties were settled on paper by the coaches. Now, each team will be played three times to allow for tiebreakers. Johnson welcomes the change because, " No coach likes to have to flip a coin for a win," he says.

This is Johnson's sixth year as head coach of the Monarchs. He came from an assistant coach position at California State University Northridge. Over his tenure with the team, he has seen the Monarchs hit both extremes of the spectrum, he states. "The first year we hit the playoffs. Overall we're at 500. It's pretty good and I feel positive about this year," says Johnson.

The one downside to this season is the raise in fees. Some of the players have yet to pay their tuition because they must carry a minimum of 12 units each semester to play. "The no maximum on the fees has been rough on them. Many of them carry 15 to 18 units because they want to transfer," says Johnson.

LAVC is fortunate in this regard compared to other community colleges. Some have lost literally hundreds of students in their physical education departments due to the higher fees.

The Monarchs' spring season begins on February 5th with the San Diego Mesa Tournament at San Diego Mesa. The first Conference game is on February 16th against Santa Monica at Santa Monica.

Correction: In the Jan. 28 issue of the *Star* we misspelled player #32's name. The correct spelling is Michelle Cabaldon.

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